

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 7, 2002

LB 1003

willing to discuss that also. And, with that, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I do want to make a correction from what I stated last time and that is that park funds cannot be commingled with endangered species funds. That does not diminish my concern for the overall picture of any public funds being spent to grow the population of a...an animal around the state that's full of disease and destroys property and otherwise, so that it's still a huge concern for me. And I do want to also point out that if it was ten years time from the last increase, we're talking about a similar increase that last year...the last time lasted for ten years. We're talking about the same increase lasting for four to five years. And it's still hard to tell exactly what the future intent is and where the dollars are going to go, but I think we need to move a little more slowly on this issue. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I, first of all, just want to echo Senator Beutler's concern with the lack of recreational opportunities surrounding the larger cities of Omaha and Lincoln. When I met with the Game and Parks Commission a couple of weeks ago, three or four weeks ago, I, too, raised the same type of concerns. And at the time I met with them, I was, Senator Beutler, I was totally unaware of the representation apparatus of the Nebraska Game and Parks Districts, and I just want to let you know that I agree that we need to look at changes in that area. With regard to the park entry permit monies and so forth, geographically where I live and that of my constituents, the state of Iowa's recreational opportunities, parks, are actually closer than that of the state of Nebraska. And I just thought I would let the members know that the state of Iowa has no park entry permit to users. It's free access to both residents of Iowa and nonresidents. At least the last time I was over there, that's the way it was. And I will probably have a question for Senator Schrock, if he's available, and if he knows anything with regard to the way in